

State of Rhode Island

JOURNAL
-OF THE-
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Second Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Volume 151, No. 19

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Nineteenth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, March 14, 2024, and is called to order at 4:11 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 71 members present and 4 members absent as follows:

PRESENT–71: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi and Vella-Wilkinson.

ABSENT–4: Representatives Marszalkowski, Noret, Rea and Voas.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr., who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Tuesday, March 12, 2024, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Brandon T. Voas is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 14, 2024.
Representative Thomas E. Noret is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 14, 2024.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
TRANSFER OF BILLS****COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chairman Bennett, for the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Corporations:

House Bill No. 7616

BY Speakman, Carson, Cortvriend, Cotter, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --

RENEWABLE READY PROGRAM (Establishes the renewable ready program and fund to promotes the responsible siting/development of renewable energy generating resources in locations where it would be an ancillary beneficial use to the redevelopment of previously contaminated property.) {LC4905/1}

03/14/2024 Committee transferred to House Corporations

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024:**1. 2024-H 7321**

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- CITY OF NEWPORT -- ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND SCOOTERS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Abney, Carson and Fogarty.

Chairman Casey and Minority Leader Chippendale discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw,

McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2024-S 2091

BY Valverde

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, RENOVATION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW HIGH SCHOOL, ATHLETIC FACILITY, AND OTHER SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENT THERETO, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DESIGN, DEMOLITION, ATHLETIC FIELDS, LANDSCAPING AND PARKING AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES, INCLUDING ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND OTHER PROJECT-RELATED CONSULTING COSTS

Committee on Finance recommends passage in concurrence.

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives McEntee, Spears, Craven, Fogarty and Morales.

Chairman Abney discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 71 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 71: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislik, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, (24-S 2091), on the Clerk's desk is ordered to be transmitted to the Honorable Senate, forthwith.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ADDRESS

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Chairwoman Fogarty addresses the members of Irish tradition and culture, offering an opportunity to reflect on the rich heritage and contributions of the Irish community to our State and beyond. Chairman McNamara shares an Irish poem titled "The State's Tallest St. Patrick's Day."

(For the St. Patrick's Day remarks and Poem, see Appendix, this Journal.)

GUESTS

Representative McGaw extends a warm welcome to the organizers of The World's Shortest St. Paddy's Day Parade, organizer Chuck Kinnane, Grand Marshals David and Diane MacGregor, Treasurer John Sperdutie, and parade organizers Susan Kinnane, Charles Kinnane Sr., Karey Kinnane, and Maureen Pieri to the House Chamber. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes them to the House Chamber.

Chairman McNamara welcomes to the House Chamber members of the Warwick School Committee, Chairman Shaun Galligan, Vice Chair Leah Hazelwood, Clerk Michelle Kirby-Chapman, and City-Wide members David Testa and Karen Bachus, Warwick Public Schools Superintendent Lynn Dambruch, and Assistant Superintendent William McCaffrey. Speaker Shekarchi thanks the Committee members and welcomes them to the House Chamber.

Chairwoman Fogarty welcomes her cousin, Warwick School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan, to the House Chamber.

NOW PRESIDING

At 4:51 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy.

GUESTS

Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson is delighted to welcome and congratulate Nick and Joan Degaitas on the 40th Anniversary of their establishment, Nick and Joan's Place, in Warwick, Rhode Island. Joining them are their family members, Michaela and Eugene Boadih, accompanied by her children, Adalyn, Xavier, Quinn, Elijah, Silas, and Isabella; Angela Degaitas, accompanied by her children, Julian, Adrian, and Nicholas, also in attendance are their employees Allie Alfonso-El-Sayed and her children Viola, Zain, and Nyle. Representative Vella-Wilkinson also acknowledges family members who could not be present: Nicholas Degaitas Jr., Kimberly Lindstrom, and their children Alden and Cora; Lori and Michael Lavigne and their children Michael Jr., Mariana, John Paul, Theresa, Julia, Chiara, Celeste, and Timothy, and recognizes an employee, Annie Anthony, who was unable to attend.

Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson welcomes Betty Leach, Rhode Island Department Commander of the American Legion, as they celebrate the 105th Anniversary of the American Legion. She expresses gratitude for Ms. Leach's patriotism and unwavering support toward veterans and military families.

Representative Cotter warmly welcomes her esteemed colleagues, Frederick Weckman and Matthew Lerish, to the House Chamber, commending them for their diligent work. Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy joins in welcoming them to the House Chambers.

Representatives Giraldo, Batista and Majority Whip Kazarian welcome to the House Chamber Roger Williams Law School students Alison Brochu, Lisa Donovan, and Nicholas Touch, who are interning in the Central Falls Law Department as part of the Law School's Alternative Spring Break Program and acknowledge Roger Williams Law School graduates Amma Ankrah, Heidi Silverio Roias, and Joshua Magnone for their significant contributions and achievements in their respective fields are genuinely commendable, reflecting their hard work and dedication.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Whip Kazarian invites all members to attend the reception in support of Rhode Island's 250th Commission. The reception will be held at the State House on March 29, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS

Chairman Azzinaro warmly welcomes his granddaughter, Brianna Azzinaro, to the House Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Floor Manager Edwards invites all members to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Rise with corned beef sandwiches and soda bread in room 203. In celebration of St. Joseph's next Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Italian treats will be available in the House Lounge at 3:00 p.m.

Representative Fellela welcomes to the House Chamber Warwick School Committee member David Testa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Tanzi announces that the House Finance Subcommittee on Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Chairwoman McEntee announces that the Committee on Small Business will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room135 of the State House.

Representative Morales announces that the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority has postponed the proposed service changes scheduled for April 6, 2024.

Representative Phillips congratulates Brooke Cooper on becoming the first woman in Boston Red Sox franchise history to be named Executive Vice President and General Manager for the Worcester Red Sox.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 8064

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Perez, Batista, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Corvese

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON MARCH 15, 2024 {LC3625/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 8065

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Solomon, McNamara, Bennett, Shanley, Place, Kennedy, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF "NICK & JOAN'S PLACE" IN WARWICK {LC5690/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 8066

BY McGaw, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Donovan, McNamara, Messier, Fogarty, McEntee, Solomon

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND RECOGNIZING ADAMSVILLE'S THIRD ANNUAL "WORLD'S SHORTEST ST. PADDY'S DAY PARADE" {LC5570/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative McGaw requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative McGaw and Chairwoman McEntee discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative McGaw, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 8067

BY Kennedy, Fogarty, McNamara, Edwards, Slater, Shanley, O'Brien, Chippendale, Shekarchi, Blazejewski

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IRELAND {LC5452/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 8068

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATION {LC5720/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 8069

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC5721/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

RULE 7D**The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:**

Representative Fellela-An Act relating to Residential Landlord and Tenant Act

Representative Serpa-An Act relating to Public Officers and Employees-Merit System

Representative Vella-Wilkinson-An Act relating to Criminal Offenses—Threats and Extortion

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the clerk's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, to the Honorable Senate and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy announces that the desk will be held open.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Honorable Senate transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measures:

Senate Bill No. 2220

BY Lauria, LaMountain, DiMario, Miller, Euer, Murray, Valverde, Ujifusa, Lawson, Cano

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES (Prohibits any agreement whereby an advanced practice registered nurse is restricted in the right to practice in a certain geographic area, assist or provide treatment or establish a professional relationship with any other employer.) {LC3774/1}

03/15/2024 Referred to House Health & Human Services

Senate Bill No. 2255

BY Murray, Pearson, Miller, Sosnowski, Bissaillon, Valverde, Lauria, Quezada, Tikoian, Ujifusa

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PREVENTION OF HIV INFECTION (Eliminates prior authorization or step therapy requirement for prescriptions for any HIV prevention drug/prohibits the requirement of any copayment or the meeting of any deductible to obtain the prescription covered by the contract, plan, or policy.) {LC4687/1}

03/15/2024 Referred to House Health & Human Services

Senate Bill No. 2447

(Secretary of State)

BY McKenney, Lawson, Acosta, Cano, Gallo**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- STATEWIDE REFERENDA ELECTIONS**

(Amends certain election statutes to require ballot questions be written in plain language reasonably calculated to be understood by persons with an eighth-grade reading level.) {LC4531/1}

03/15/2024 Referred to House State Government & Elections

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Chairman McNamara, for the Committee on Education, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 7148

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

BY Lombardi J, Hull, Stewart, Cruz**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOLS DISTRICTS** (Amends the composition of the Urban Collaborative and provide that the collaborative be governed by a board of trustees.) {LC3406/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/19/2024)

House Bill No. 7512

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

BY McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Noret, Roberts, Phillips, Donovan, Azzinaro**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PUPIL****TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES** ("Pupil Transportation Vehicle" to be and constructed to seat not more than ten (10) passengers including the operator, rather than the existing limit of eight (8) passengers.) {LC4374/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/19/2024)

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairman Abney, for the Committee on Finance, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 8001

(by request)

BY Spears, Kennedy**ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ONE IN EACH OF THE TOWNS OF CHARLESTOWN, RICHMOND AND HOPKINTON) AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SWITCH ROAD CAMPUS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DEMOLITION, DESIGN, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS, PLAYGROUNDS, LANDSCAPING, PAVING AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENTAL THERETO BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$150,000,000 BONDS AND/OR NOTES THEREFOR, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 61% AT THE**

TIME OF ISSUANCE, WHICH RATE OR RATIO MAY INCREASE TO MORE THAN 76% AT PROJECT COMPLETION (Authorizes the Chariho Regional School District to finance the construction, furnishing and equipping of three elementary schools (one in each of the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton) and improvements at the Switch Road Campus.)

{LC5060/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/19/2024)

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 7239

BY Cortvriend, Spears, Carson, Bennett, Knight, Ajello, Caldwell, McGaw, Kislak, Boylan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- LIMITED GUARDIANSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF ADULTS (Provides that supported decision-making pursuant to chapter 66.13 of title 42 be added to the Limited Guardianship and Guardianship of Adults forms section as one of the less restrictive alternatives to guardianship that have been explored.) {LC3762/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/19/2024)

COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS

Chairman Shanley, for the Committee on State Government and Elections, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 7328

BY Ajello, Knight, Lombardi J, Handy, Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Chippendale, Batista, Tanzi, Felix
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES (Includes the general assembly elections within the category of elections subject to the risk-limiting audits within the jurisdiction of the board of elections.) {LC4094/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/21/2024)

House Bill No. 7469

(Dept. of Business Regulation)

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- INTERSTATE COMPACT ON INDUSTRIALIZED/MODULAR BUILDINGS (Repeals the Interstate Compact on Industrialized/Modular Buildings in its entirety.) {LC4390/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/21/2024)

House Bill No. 7470

(Dept. of Transportation)

BY Cardillo, Azzinaro, Noret, Finkelman, Shanley, Felix, Phillips, Serpa, O'Brien, Handy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS (Adds "loose material" to the contents of a vehicle that must be covered by a covering that must remain in place until the vehicle's contents are purged from the vehicle.) {LC4411/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/21/2024)

House Bill No. 7471

(Dept. of Revenue)

BY Tanzi, Felix, Potter, Cotter, Donovan, Lombardi J, Hull, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Alzate
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Amends several provisions relative to motorcycles and motor scooter license and educational requirements including deleting the learners permit requirement for motorcycles.) {LC4451/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/21/2024)

House Bill No. 7583

(Dept. of Administration)

BY Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Allows the department of administration to temporarily loan the state battle flags and markers to approved federal or state agencies under the condition that such loan is insured by bond against damage or loss.) {LC4862/1}

03/15/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/21/2024)

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
TRANSFER OF BILLS**

COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS

Chairman Solomon, for the Committee on Corporations, reports back the following measure, with recommendation transfer to the Committee on Judiciary:

House Bill No. 7942

BY Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Makes any term or condition in any agreement that unnecessarily burdens a person's vindication of rights under this section null and void.) {LC5048/1}

03/15/2024 Committee transferred to House Judiciary

COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS

Chairman Shanley, for the Committee on State Government and Elections, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Corporations:

House Bill No. 7069

BY McNamara, Bennett, Solomon, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, Shekarchi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION (Requires one of the seven (7) directors of the Rhode Island airport corporation be appointed by the mayor of the city of Warwick.) {LC3614/1}

03/18/2024 Committee transferred to House Corporations

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 8070

BY DeSimone, McNamara, Perez, Donovan, Kislak, Casimiro, Noret, Cardillo, Biah, Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PSYCHOLOGISTS
(Includes licensed school psychologists under the provisions of the general laws governing the regulations of psychologists and expands the licensing of school psychologists for independent practice.) {LC5585/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8071

BY Cortvriend, Bennett, Edwards, McGaw
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT (Does not require the remediation of occurring arsenic in the soil with direct exposure of less than or equal to twenty (20) milligrams per kilogram.) {LC5485/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 8072

BY Tanzi, Donovan, Potter, Henries, Alzate, Felix, Fogarty, Diaz, Lombardi J, Hull
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT
(Protects the solvency of health systems, physicians, and advance practice providers and insurers, encourage fair treatment of hospitals and ensure adequate clinical workforce while advancing health equity.) {LC5319/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8073

BY Fogarty, Tanzi, Donovan, Casimiro, Cotter, Carson, Speakman, Henries, Caldwell, Shallcross Smith
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Provides that health insurance plans would provide coverage the use of artificial intelligence technology for analysis of breast tissue diagnostic imaging.) {LC5592/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8074

BY Cardillo, Lima, Azzinaro, Noret, Phillips, Serpa, Vella-Wilkinson, O'Brien, Chippendale, Craven
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Removes the requirement for a patient to obtain a referral from their primary care provider in order to see a specialist, on or after January 1, 2025.) {LC5655/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8075

BY McGaw, Kennedy, Morales, Lombardi J, Hull, Vella-Wilkinson, Diaz, Shekarchi, Corvese, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires health plans that provide prescription benefits to cover at least one type of glucagon auto-injector, nasal spray, or formulation that does not require reconstitution to treat hypoglycemia. No copayment or deductible would be required.) {LC5663/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8076

BY DeSimone, Azzinaro, Kennedy, O'Brien, Slater, Corvese, Vella-Wilkinson, Solomon, Place, Voas

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- LIFE ESTATE (Entitles holders of a life estate to real property to use any veteran's tax exemptions available to them.) {LC5584/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 8077

BY Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY (Prohibits any state-chartered fire district from liquidating or disposing of any real or tangible property without first offering the property to the municipality in which the fire district is located.) {LC5675/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 8078

BY Tanzi, Fogarty, Felix, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Lombardi J, Hull, Ackerman, McNamara, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE LADDERS TO LICENSURE PROGRAM (Implements a grant program to fund public or private partnerships that provide opportunities for healthcare paraprofessionals to pursue higher education degrees and health professional licensure.) {LC5686/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8079

BY Tanzi, Fogarty, Felix, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Lombardi J, Hull, Ackerman, McNamara, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (Increases the annual appropriation for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program from one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to one million dollars (\$1,000,000).) {LC5684/1}

03/15/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:14 o'clock P.M., on motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, the House adjourns on a unanimous voice vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT E. CRAVEN, SR.

May God be with you and bless you,
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings.
May you know nothing but happiness.
From this day forward. Amen

APPENDIX**REPRESENTATIVE FOGARTY ST. PATRICK'S DAY REMARKS**

Any public celebration of St. Patrick's Day eventually gets around to talking about Irish persecution — first by the British, and then the discrimination faced by Irish immigrants when they first came to these shores in the 19th Century. And in truth, the story of the Irish resonates particularly strongly today as the national debate on immigration has reached fever pitch.

I'm proud that my colleagues have worked so tirelessly over the past few years to welcome and make life fairer for the newest members of our society, including driving privilege cards for undocumented residents, in-state tuition rates for immigrants, or stopping employers from using immigration status against whistleblowers.

These things were the decisions of informed lawmakers, many of whom are immigrants themselves. But I like to think that the story of the Irish was a sobering lesson that helped inform many of those decisions — especially for those of us with Irish ancestry who grew up hearing the tales of Irish persecution.

There have been hundreds of lawmakers of Irish descent in Rhode Island over the years and I'm proud to be one of them. It wasn't always that way, though. When the first influx of Irish began to arrive in the 1820s, they were not exactly welcomed with open arms. Here in Rhode Island, as everywhere else, they were spurned as lower-class menials, and "No Irish Need Apply" signs were not uncommon.

The last person executed for a crime in this state, John Gordon, was a poster boy for discrimination. Convicted in 1845 of killing wealthy industrialist Amasa Sprague, it was pretty obvious even at the time, that the only thing he was guilty of was being Irish. The judge even told the jurors to give greater weight to Yankee witnesses than Irish witnesses. This was a century before Italians Sacco and Vanzetti would face similar discrimination that led to their execution in Massachusetts.

Ten years later, anti-Irish sentiment still dominated this very chamber, and even the governor, William Hoppin, was a leader of the Know-Nothing party. Officially called the "American Party," it was an anti-Catholic, anti-Irish organization that was very influential in Rhode Island politics. They were called the "Know Nothings" because when asked about party business, its members were instructed to say, "I know nothing." Governor Hoppin spread a rumor about an armed Catholic conspiracy in Rhode Island, using the rumor to justify providing uniforms and weapons to form the so-called Guards of Liberty, a military unit whose sole purpose was to harass and beat Irish Catholics.

(Mr. Speaker, I know that it's traditionally frowned upon to bad-mouth a governor in this chamber, but I think enough time has gone by since 1854. There must be some sort of statute of limitations on that)

But Rhode Island attitudes toward the Irish changed in the Civil War, when Irish-Americans accounted for more than half of the Union Army. And the contributions of Irish-Americans in ending slavery and preserving the union were extraordinary. Two Rhode Island Irishmen, John Corcoran and James Welsh were recipients of the newly created Congressional Medal of Honor for their wartime heroism.

Speaking of the Medal of Honor, did you know that it's been given to 257 native-born Irish? That's twice as many as any other ethnic group. When it comes to bravery and heroism, Irish-Americans always had a huge surplus to give their country.

But Irish contributions go far beyond warfare. Just look at the arts. Take music for instance. When you think of patriotic American music, you need look no further than Rhode Island's own Irish-American George M. Cohan, who was born in Providence on the 4th of July. (Actually, he was born on the 3rd of July, but sometimes the Irish are given to exaggeration, and that's OK). He was the one who wrote "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "Over There." There's a nice statue of him waving his hat at Fox Point, and he's the only performer who has a statue in New York's Times Square.

Ireland is a small nation. Its population is only about four times the size of Rhode Island. Yet from this small country came a huge impact on the history of this state, this country and the whole world. When you look beyond the leprechaun and the shillelagh and see the real culture of Ireland — its art, its literature, its science and engineering — those things that have been propounded by the sons and daughters of the Emerald Isle, and their grandsons and granddaughters in America, you realize that the collective whole of the Irish people have made the world a better place in ways that can never be calculated.

And we need to remember that when we try to make our state and country a little more welcoming to the newest immigrant groups that enrich our society and make the world a better place. And maybe we can make it just a little easier for them than our 19th Century counterparts did for the Irish.

So, adjust your shamrocks, raise a pint of Guinness and drink a toast to the Irish in America — and be proud and glad of the fact that without the Irish, the American experiment would have died in its infancy.

Fortunately, we'll always be around to get the country out of a jam when things get rough.

APPENDIX**REPRESENTATIVE MCNAMARA, ST. PATRICK'S DAY POEM****The State's Tallest St. Patrick's Day**

Speaker Shekarchi is throwing a party this St. Patrick's Day
He's renting the Superman Building to celebrate in a big way

His dog, Merlin, is donning a canine tux that is bright green
He will be cohosting this pet-friendly scene.

Leader Blazejewski worries that the bridge might make East Bay Reps. late
For this adaptive reuse of the tallest building in the state

Our Leader knows the building has an airship dock
So, he rented a blimp so East Bay Reps. would have a place to park

Rep. Donovan has been named pilot of this airship due to her background in PE
Rep. Knight is copilot due to his experience beneath the sea

Rep. Boylan uses the blimp's slow pace
To plot land for open space

Rep. Dawson looks down with a lead detector
To protect children in this housing sector
Rep. Speakman will navigate this trip
Looking for lots where an ADU may fit

Rep. McGaw will hand out air sickness medication

While Rep. Carson drops leaflets for a Newport vacation
Rep. Cortvriend looks for paths that access the bay

It's easy when the blimp is underway
Rep. Edwards manages the crew with care

Stating, "This blimp will never run out of hot air"

Rep. Abney is in charge of parachutes

He'd much rather be talking about his Texarkana roots

The Irish American Caucus will take up the 2nd floor
With NCSL President Kennedy and Rep. O'Brien checking IDs at the door

Rep. Potter is serving mushroom-infused Irish tea
While Rep. Slater is serving salsa with THC

Rep. Craven's hosting a tribute to JFK
A fitting tribute on this St. Patrick's Day

Rep. Spears and Rep. Cotter are serving seafood from the Southshore
Everyone in line is calling for more

On the 8th floor, Rep. O' Batista has opened an Irish Dominican Café
Rep. Diaz assists by dancing an Irish merengue

When Rep. Perez announces his taxis are free
All of the guests shout with glee

Rep. Felix announces there will be no cash bail for Leprechauns today
Stating, "These little guys shouldn't have to pay."

Rep. Baginski mans the AED
While Rep. Bennett RN puts a band-aide on a knee
Rep. Shanley deadlifts 600 pounds
While wrestling champion Morales shows how he uses
"Flying head scissors" to end rounds

Rep. Vella-Wilkinson wears a beautiful Irish hat
While Rep. DeSimone uses his legal skills to mediate a little spat

Rep. Noret's daughter sings Danny Boy
While Rep. Casimiro gives every foster child a St. Patrick's Day toy.

Rep. Kazarian opens the children's party on the 5th floor
While Tiny Townies dressed in green line up at the door

Rep. Constantino has brought an Italian seafood stew
He tells everyone, this is good for you
Not to be outdone, Rep. Azzinaro serves soupy on a bun
Rep. Alzate enters the fray
She's serving Irish Columbian coffee today!
The Alvarez chorus sings McNamara's Band with style and zest
Also singing, our principal Rep. Biah, is the best

A guest shows up saying he's the real Arthur Knight
Rep. Hull says something here just ain't right

Dressed in green for Good Burger III
Rep. Ackerman is our new celebrity

Rep. Solomon and his bride ride horses into the lobby
Love of horses is not just an Irish hobby

Rep. Serpa states, "This party needs an oversight hearing."
She states, "This party is just too endearing"

The Leprechauns chorus begins to sing
Hail to Rep. Phillips Mardi Gras King
Rep. Corvese hands out shamrock shades to protect our sight
Some Reps. complain that they're starting to look a little more to the right

Rep. Kislak from the fashionable East Side
Hosts a party for Irish Pride

Rep. Cruz shows up with 30 little beds
Stating, "I want unhoused Leprechauns to rest their little heads."

Rep. Fellela has brought some Original Italian pizza chips
This leaves everyone smacking their lips

Rep. Sanchez opens an Irish Joint that will be open very late
Everyone says, we just can't wait

Rep. Brien is hosting an Independent St. Patrick's Party on the 10th floor
You don't need party affiliating to get in the door

Rep. Casey is a one-man Irish band
He really is the best tuba player in the land

Rep. Marszalkowski has an Irish beef stew from his farm
Calling the dish his organic lucky charm

The 8th floor is an Irish preschool
Hosted by Rep. Shallcross Smith, who is always cool

Rep. Ajello talks about Irish woven art
She always speaks from the heart

Rep. Lombardi brings delicacies from the Hill
He says, "If you get agida, I've got a pill"

Rep. Stewart is talking about an Irish town
Her guests are all students at Moses Brown

Rep. Tanzi opened an Irish betting parlor on floor 23
Stating "It's nice to be able to gamble smoke-free"

Rep. Henries has Irish men lined up for a skincare tip
They all want to look presentable and a little hip

Rep. Handy says, "We have to save the environment here
It's the only planet that has beer"

There's one name that the Irish adore
Rep. Fogarty lives up to the legend and delivers much more

Rep. Cardillo brought some homemade wine
Made with grapes, he's picked from his own vine
Rep. Caldwell is feeding the children an Irish breakfast, lunch, and evening meal
She says, "Look how happy they all feel"

Rep. McEntee has a rooftop soiree
Saying “Take your St. Patrick’s Day party outside today”

Rep. Lima says, “I don’t want a pot of gold.
I just want a COLA before I get old.”

When we ask Rep. Finkelman to insure the blimp,
He thought we were being funny
Saying, “They haven’t sold blimp insurance since 1920”

The pub owners named Rep. Voas Man of the Year
Thanks to him they can afford more beer

Rep. Giraldo used all of his resources
To make sure all of our immigration stories are taught in school courses

For guests who take the stairs to the top,
Rep. Fenton-Fung offers PT before they drop
Rep. Roberts is opening the Speak Easy on the roof
Leader Chippendale and Newberry are stocking it with spirits that are 80-proof

Rep. Nardone and Rep. Quattrocchi restore the leather and mahogany walls
While Rep. Morgan and Place hang disco balls

Rep. Rea brings food from his Smithfield Café
Now, the Republicans are ready for the state’s tallest St. Patrick’s Day



Joseph M. McNamara

March 14, 2024

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024:

1. 2024-H 7278

BY Baginski

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CRANSTON TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE AND/OR ACQUISITION OF LAND AND BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, FURNISHING AND/OR EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 50% AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

2. 2024-H 8001

BY Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ONE IN EACH OF THE TOWNS OF CHARLESTOWN, RICHMOND AND HOPKINTON) AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SWITCH ROAD CAMPUS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DEMOLITION, DESIGN, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS, PLAYGROUNDS, LANDSCAPING, PAVING AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENTAL THERETO BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$150,000,000 BONDS AND/OR NOTES THEREFOR, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 61% AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE, WHICH RATE OR RATIO MAY INCREASE TO MORE THAN 76% AT PROJECT COMPLETION

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

3. 2024-H 7148

BY J. Lombardi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

4. 2024-H 7512

BY McNamara

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

Committee on Education recommends passage.

5. 2024-H 7239

BY Cortvriend

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- LIMITED GUARDIANSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF ADULTS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024:

1. 2024-H 7328

BY Ajello

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

2. 2024-H 7469

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- INTERSTATE COMPACT ON INDUSTRIALIZED/MODULAR BUILDINGS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

3. 2024-H 7470

BY Cardillo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

4. 2024-H 7471

BY Tanzi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

5. 2024-H 7583

BY Azzinaro

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- PUBLIC
BUILDINGS**

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Francis McCabe

Clerk of the House

Friday, March 15, 2024

APPENDIX

TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill No. 2091

BY Valverde, Sosnowski, Gu

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, RENOVATION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW HIGH SCHOOL, ATHLETIC FACILITY, AND OTHER SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENT THERETO, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DESIGN, DEMOLITION, ATHLETIC FIELDS, LANDSCAPING AND PARKING AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES, INCLUDING ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND OTHER PROJECT-RELATED CONSULTING COSTS (Authorizes town of South Kingstown to issue not more than \$150,000,000 bonds and notes to finance the acquisition/construction/improvement/renovation/furnishing/equipping of a new high school/athletic facility/other school facilities in the town.) {LC3574/1}

03/14/2024 Transmitted to Governor